Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Razors Owned by Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

7/2009.085 24922

Dear Harry:
For your
information.
Regards,
RGL

H. A. CULLODEN
1785 LAS LUNAS STREET
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

February 25th 194-

Mr. Ralph G. Lindstrom
342 Comstock Ave.
Westwood California

Dear Sir:

I am the owner of five razors of a set of seven which belonged to Abraham Lincoln. Each one has a day of the week on the back of the blade and on each bone handle there is a small metal plate on which the initials "A.L." are engraved. The razors are in a leather covered case, faded and somewhat worn, and on its lid

There is a small metal plate on which is engraved a facsimile of Lincoln's signature. Two of the razors are missing, those for Monday and Thursday.

I should like to dispose of this relic if I could secure a price worth while and if you are interested I shall be glad to hear from you.

Yours very truly

H. A. Gallagher

Tel. Sy. 6-1355.

Pasadena, Calif.
Feby 24, 1941

1785 Las Lunas St.

Judge Edmund Nichols
Altadena, Calif.

Dear Sir:

I own the round five-razors of a set of 7 which belonged to Abraham Lincoln. Each one has a day of the week on the back of the blade and on each bone handle there is a small metal plate on which the initials "A.L." are engraved. The razors are in a leather covered case, frayed and somewhat worn, and on its lid there is a small metal plate on which is engraved a facsimile of Lincoln's signature. Two of the blades are missing, those for Monday and Thursday.

I would like to dispose of the razors if I could secure a price worth while and if you are interested I should be glad to hear from you. Yours very truly

W. A. Cullen

Nichols and Nichols

Edmund Nichols
Edmund Nichols, Jr.

Law Offices
A. G. Bartlett Building
215 West Seventh Street
Los Angeles, California

March 3, 1941.

H. E. Barker
1653 So. Gramercy Place
Los Angeles, California.

My Dear Mr. Barker:

I am in receipt of the enclosed letter from Mr. Culloden, whose address is 1785 Las Lunas Street, Pasadena, California, and who has some razors of the old fashioned type, which he believes were at one time actually the property of Lincoln.

I am personally not interested in acquiring articles of that type, but you may be able to find someone who would be. I suggest therefore, that you write him.

With kindest, personal regards, I am,

Very truly yours,

Edmund Nichols.

EDMUND NICHOLS

EN:HB
enc.

275 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, Calif.
March 6, 1942

Lincoln Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Gentlemen: Would your organization be interested in the purchase of the Lincoln razors?

There were originally 7 in the set, one for each day of the week. Two, however, are missing — those for Monday and Thursday. They are contained in a small leather ~~case~~ box somewhat worn, which has a small plate on top bearing a facsimile of Lincoln's signature. On the handle of each razor there is also a small plate bearing the initials A.L. in facsimile.

I purchased these razors about 30 years ago from the heir of

a collection of rules and uses given to understand that they had been at one time in the possession of Gideon Wells, Secy. of the Navy in Lincoln's cabinet. If you are interested, I would send them by Express with privilege of examination if a worth while offer for them was made.

Yours very truly

W. A. Culleton

March 15, 1943

Mr. H. A. Cullondon
275 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, Calif.

My dear Sir:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the interesting curios which you have, but I regret to say we have not specialized on display items of this type although we will be pleased to keep them in mind in case we have inquiries for such items.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

R. J. MUIRHEAD
PRESIDENT

~~D. H. FULTON~~
VICE PRESIDENT

H. A. CULLODEN
SECRETARY-TREASURER

PASADENA LAWN BOWLING CLUB
CENTRAL PARK
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

2 275 So. Raymond Ave.

June 27. 1944

Dr. Willis A. Warren
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sir: I have been told that you might be interested in the purchase of the Lincoln razors which I own. I bought them from an acquaintance more than 30 years ago and he told me that his father got them from an heir of Gideon Welles, Secy. of the Navy in Lincoln's Cabinet. They are contained in a small leather covered box which is shaped like the old fashioned leather covered trunk. There were originally 7 razors in the box - one for each day of the week and so marked. Two of them however are missing - those for Monday and Thursday. On a small metal plate on the top of the box a facsimile of the signature "A. Lincoln" is engraved, and

the letters "A.L." in facsimile are
engraved on the handle of each razor.
They are in good condition and in fact
could be used for shaving.
I don't know their value as relics
but if you are interested and
could make a month while
offers for them. I would send them
to you by Express C.O.D. with
privilege of examination.

Yours very truly

H. H. Culloden

I also have a short
letter signed by Gideon Welles
of which the following is a copy.

"Navy Department
Washington 3d April 1865
Petersburg is evacuated the
President writes and Gen. Grant
thinks Richmond is also.

G. Welles

Monday

July 10, 1944

Mr. H. C. Culloden
275 S. Raymond Ave.
Pasadena, Calif.

My dear Mr. Culloden:

Thank you for calling to our attention the Lincoln curios which you have in your possession but I feel it will be necessary for you to place the price upon them as I know of no gauge by which we could do so.

Inasmuch as you purchased them you know how much you paid for them, therefore, would have a basis on which to establish your price.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director

Pasadena Calif.
July 25. 1944

Dear Mr. Warren

In reply to your letter of the 19th inst. I
Owing to the circumstances under which I secured the relics, I have no real basis for forming an opinion of their worth.
I have asked a number of acquaintances if they could give any idea in the matter but for the most part they said if they owned them they would not dispose of them. I mention figures that I have altogether too high. I had supposed that as a collector of such relics you would have a knowledge of their value and could submit an offer. I would not refuse any reasonable offer

and as stated in my previous letter
I would send them C.O.D.
with privilege of examination.
I had intended to give
them to ~~some~~ some institution
such as yours, but I now
find myself in need of
funds.

Yours very truly

W. A. Cullen

August 1, 1944

Mr. H. [illegible] Colloden
[illegible] S. Kingsley Ave.
[illegible], Calif.

My dear Mr. Colloden:

I sincerely regret that we cannot appraise the razors which you have, reputed to have been used by Abraham Lincoln, as I do not recall any other curios of this type having been sold.

You state in your letter that you bought the razors and you must recall what you paid for them and this is the only basis that I would know to suggest.

Very truly yours,

L[illegible]:[illegible]

Barre Man Shaves With Lincoln's Razor

BARRE, Vt., Feb. 12 (AP)—The razor—big as a cheese knife—with which Abe Lincoln shaved his beard was used today by Judge Herbert D. Mason.

It was a Lincoln Day custom with the jurist, originated in 1927 after he came into possesion of the razor, which still "cuts beautifully."

Judge Mason purchased the razor at the Barham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Ill., for $5, before its value as a Lincolnian relic had been established.

9 Stanley Ave.,
Hamilton. Ontario.
Canada.
Apr. 14th 1947

Dear Sirs.

I have acquired recently from the estate of an uncle in California a case of razors that belonged to Abraham Lincoln. There is a razor for each day in the week or rather was, for two are missing—

Grant thinks — is also.

G. Wells.

"

Monday

The two place names I cannot be sure of as I am not familiar with the history of the Civil War.

I know little about the history of the razors except that my uncle bought them a good many years ago from a man who was "hard up" and needed money.

those for Monday and Thursday. The handle of each has a small shield with "A.L." engraved on it, while the case itself which is leather-covered has a plate bearing the inscription "A. Lincoln."

In the case there was a note as follows, so far as I can make it out —

"Navy Department
Washington 3d April 1865
—— is vacated The President writes and Gen.

Assuming that they are genuine Lincoln relics, and relations in California owned some of it, can you give me some idea of what I might expect to get from them and how I had best sell them.

Thanking you -

Yours truly,

(Rev.) Cyril Drumm.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS
WASHINGTON
25,D.C.

April 22, 1947

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation,
Lincoln National Life Insurance Company,
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

My dear Dr. Warren:

I am inclosing a letter from Reverend Cyril Drumm, Ontario, Canada, in which he describes two interesting Lincoln items in his possession.

It has occurred to me that you would be interested to know of the existance of these relics, and that you might be able to advise Reverend Drumm of their value and how he might be able to sell them.

Sincerely yours,

Frank T. Gartside

Frank T. Gartside,
Assistant Superintendent

Enclosure

April 28, 1947

Reverend Cyril Drumm
9 Stanley Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

My dear Sir:

We would not be able to appraise the Lincoln relics which you possess, as we are prohibited here from making any appraisals. In fact, I do not know of any one who could appraise the items you have as I do not imagine there is any sales price on such items to use as a standard.

You would probably get more for them, inasmuch as the set has been broken, to sell them individually.

We will be pleased to keep your letter on file, and if inquiries come with respect to them, we will be pleased to advise you.

Why do you not write to some of the larger razor manufacturers, who should be interested in them for publicity purposes.

Very truly yours,

LAW:FB

Director